

REMARKS

Claims 58-99 are pending and claims 58-99 stand rejected. By virtue of this response, no claims have been cancelled, amended, or added. Accordingly, claims 58-99 are currently under consideration.

Previously filed Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement with a Request for Continued Examination on December 28, 2005. To date, Applicants have not received an initialed copy from the Examiner indicating the references therein have been considered. Accordingly, Applicants request consideration and return of an initialed copy of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Double Patenting

A. Claims 58-61, 63-79, 95, 96, and 99 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 or 12-14 or 35-38 of U.S. Patent No. 6,961,200 in view of Thomas et al. (US 5,279,775) and Bouldin et al (US 6,558,774).

To expedite prosecution, and without conceding to the Examiner's statements in the Office Action regarding the obviousness-type double patenting rejection, Applicants submit herewith a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) to overcome the provisional double patenting rejection over U.S. Patent No. 6,961,200. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 58-61, 63-79, 95-96, and 99.

B. Claim 62 stands rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 or 12-14 or 35-38 of U.S. Patent No. 6,961,200 in view of Thomas et al. (US 5,279,775) and Bouldin et al (US 6,558,774) as applied to claim 58 above, and further in view of Abramson (US 3,610,721).

Claim 62 depends from claim 58 and is allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 58 stated above. Accordingly, Applicants request the rejection be withdrawn.

C. Claims 80-86, 97, and 98 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 or 12-14 or 35-38 of U.S. Patent No. 6,961,200 in view of Thomas et al. (US 5,279,775) and Bouldin et al (US 6,558,774) as applied to claim 58 or 95 above, and further in view of Saito et al. (US 5,982,592) and Kosarko et al (US 4,833,556).

Claims 80-86, 97, and 98 depend from claims 58 and 95 respectively and are allowable for at least similar reasons as claims 58 and 95 stated above. Accordingly, Applicants request the rejection be withdrawn.

D. Claims 87-94 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 or 12-14 or 35-38 of U.S. Patent No. 6,961,200 in view of Thomas et al. (US 5,279,775) and Bouldin et al (US 6,558,774) as applied to claim 58 above, and further in view of Ueyanagi (US 6,396,776).

Claims 80-86, 97, and 98 depend from claim 58 and are allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 58 stated above. Accordingly, Applicants request the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 249212007010. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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